

longed interview with you upon other matters, it seemed like monopoly to appropriate your valuable time any further.

What are your views, Governor, upon the Currency question? Must the State await the results which we hope may come from successful industry—the future crops of cotton, turpentine, tobacco & other agricultural products—or can something and what be done towards hastening the very desirable restoration of a sound & sufficient currency.

What, in your opinion, is the scheme of taxation which will bear with the least vexation upon our distressed community?

Has any *via media*² between our present Stay law, & the indiscriminate collection of debts occurred to you as constitutional. I do not fancy a legislation which bears so hardly [illegible] against that thrifty, enterprising, & valuable class,—the Creditor class, as our present enactments do. It must result to the permanent damage of the State. If there were a safe way of letting the gap half way down, it ought to have favor. Will the installment acts of Va., & S.C., be constitutional so far as they *limit* the rights of the creditors. If the Courts are opened, will the creditor do as he pleases about the recovery of his demands.

I have addressed a question upon this last point to C. J. Pearson,³ apologizing for any apparent impropriety in the question.

Gov. Swain, a few days ago, told me that you quoted me as saying that I believed that the sons of the poor men in Orange ought to be placed upon the same level with those of Mr. Cameron,⁴ as regards the elements of education. Without intending to impeach the propriety of the proposition, I should like to know when I uttered it. I do not believe that I ever did. It would be offensive to single Mr. C. out for such a remark in public. I deny ever having said it.

The use which I once made of Mr. Cameron's name upon the stump, (in 1852) in an argument upon Free Suffrage, was entirely a different one. It offended him as it was told to him. I have never been convinced that it was properly offensive. I had then a very great respect for Mr. C., and what I said was said in that temper. If it had been said about Mr. Graham, it would have given no offense. As my experience, however, had shown to me that Mr. C. was disposed to be captious, I would have been very careful since then in using his name in public, unless I had designed to offend him—which I did not.

¹Samuel Field Phillips (1824-1903), a native of Harlem, New York, was the son of James Phillips, University of North Carolina professor of math, 1826-1867. He was the brother of Charles Phillips and Cornelia Phillips Spencer. In 1841 he graduated from the university with the highest honors in his class, and he read law with both David L. Swain and William Horn Battle prior to opening a Chapel Hill practice. He was a state legislator, delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1865, reporter of the North Carolina Supreme